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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, September 21, 2007

***ARIZONA MOURNS PASSING OF MELODEE JACKSON***  
***Served as Director of the Governor's Office of Constituent Services***

PHOENIX – Melodee Jackson, a longtime Arizona public servant and the Director of the Governor's Office of Constituent Services, died today in Mesa. She was 61.

"We've lost a dear friend," said Governor Janet Napolitano. "She was a person with a wonderful sense of humor and a genuine love for Arizona and its people. Melodee played a critical role in the Governor's Office. What people may not know is that she was also an author, a hospice volunteer, and a woman of deep faith. We're only beginning to grasp how much we will miss her."

As Director of the Governor's Office of Constituent Services, Melodee was in charge of the team that fielded literally thousands of phone calls, emails and letters every day, from citizens across the state. She helped Arizonans access all make and manner of public services and information, and kept the Governor constantly informed of issues of concern to constituents. After spending more than two years at the Attorney General's office as a policy adviser, she joined the Governor's Office as part of the incoming transition team in 2002.

Many Arizonans will also remember Melodee as the Executive Director of the Arizona Democratic Party, a job she held for 18 years. She wrote a weekly national column entitled "Winning Ways that Work," as well as the Democratic National Committee State Fundraising Manual used by state party organizations across the country.

Recently, Jackson also served as Chair of the State Quarter Commission, and took great pride in the Commission's final selection. The coin will be minted next year.

Every Wednesday evening, Melodee Jackson volunteered her time with Hospice of the Valley, supporting families whose loved ones were in the final stages of life.

Friends say she never missed a birthday of theirs, and most gifts were Melodee's own unique and personal designs.

The family is finalizing funeral arrangements.